

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on April 19, 2006. Currently, Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1-11 have been examined and stand rejected. Dependent Claims 12 and 13 have been added. Consideration of Claims 1-13 is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 1-3 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Horrocks (U.S. Patent No. 3,831,274).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the forward facing surface of the web is substantially blunt to prevent cutting the catheter. The amendment is supported from, at least, Figure 2. For a reference to be anticipatory, the reference must exactly describe the claimed invention. Because Horrocks does not teach or suggest a web having a forward facing surface that is substantially blunt to prevent cutting the catheter, the reference is not anticipatory.

Accordingly, the withdraw of the rejection of Claims 1-3 is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, and 11 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Walker (U.S. Patent No. 5,322,513).

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite that the forward facing surface of the web is substantially blunt to prevent cutting the catheter. The amendment is supported from, at least, Figure 2. For a reference to be anticipatory, the reference must exactly describe the claimed invention. Because Walker does not teach or suggest a web having a forward facing surface that is substantially blunt to prevent cutting the catheter, the reference is not anticipatory.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, and 11 is respectfully requested.

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The Rejection of Claims 1-3, and 8-11 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gardeski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,159,198).

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite that the forward facing surface of the web is substantially blunt to prevent cutting the catheter. For a reference to be anticipatory, the reference must exactly describe the claimed invention. Because Gardeski et al. does not teach or suggest a web having a forward facing surface that is substantially blunt to prevent cutting the catheter, the reference is not anticipatory.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3, and 8-11 is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 4-7 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horrocks, Walker, or Gardeski et al.

Claims 4-7 are dependent on Claim 1. Therefore, for this reason alone, Claims 4-7 are allowable. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 4-7 is respectfully requested.

New Claims 12 and 13

Dependent Claims 12 and 13 are new and are at least supported from Figures 2, 4, 5, and 7. Claims 12 and 13 are submitted to be allowable over the references of record.

The Telephone Interview

Attorney for applicants and Examiner Stigell conducted a telephone interview on July 11, 2006, wherein the claim limitations to Claims 1 and 8 were discussed. The Examiner indicated that the claim limitations appeared to be both novel and nonobvious over Horrocks, Walker, and Gardeski et al.; however, the Examiner indicated that additional searching would be required.

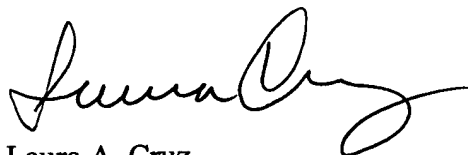
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, applicant submits that Claims 1-13 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may contact the applicants' attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first-class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

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July 19, 2006

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